

Serial No. 09/966,939

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-33.

¹ ~~34.~~ (original) A linked apparatus for making dosage forms containing a medicant, comprising:

- a) a compression module having means for forming compressed dosage forms by compressing a powder containing said medicant;
- b) a transfer device having means for continuously transferring said compressed dosage forms from said compression module to a thermal cycle molding module; and
- c) a thermal cycle molding module having means for continuously molding a coating of flowable material over said compressed dosage forms.

² ~~35.~~ (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹ ~~34~~, further comprising means for operating said compression module, said transfer device, and said thermal cycle molding module simultaneously, such that as coatings are being molded on a first group of compressed dosage forms in said thermal cycle molding module, said transfer device transfers a second group of compressed dosage forms to said thermal cycle molding module, and said compression module forms a third group of compressed dosage forms.

³ ~~36.~~ (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹ ~~34~~, wherein said medicant is a first medicant, and said apparatus further comprises:

- d) a thermal setting molding module having means for forming an insert containing a second medicant; and
- e) means for embedding said insert into said compressed dosage form prior to molding said coating over said compressed dosage form in said thermal cycle molding station.

⁴ ~~37.~~ (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹ ~~34~~, wherein said flowable material comprises a polymer.

⁵ ~~38.~~ (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹ ~~34~~, wherein said flowable material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of sucrose-fatty acid esters; fats,

waxes, fat-containing mixtures, sugars, carbohydrates, thermoplastic starch, and low-moisture polymer solutions.

⁶
~~39~~. (original) The apparatus according to claim ⁴~~37~~, wherein said flowable material comprises a gelatin.

⁷
~~40~~. (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹~~34~~, wherein said means for continuously molding a coating over said compressed dosage forms comprises:

(i) means for molding a first flowable material around first portions of said compressed dosage forms; and

(ii) means for molding a second flowable material around second portions of said compressed dosage forms.

⁸
~~41~~. (original) The apparatus according to claim ¹~~34~~, wherein (i) said compression module comprises a die table mounted for rotation about a first axis and having a plurality of die cavities disposed around the perimeter thereof, whereby rotation of said die table carries said die cavities around a first circular path, and (ii) wherein said thermal cycle molding module comprises a rotor mounted for rotation about a second axis and comprising a plurality of mold cavities disposed around the perimeter thereof, whereby rotation of said rotor carries said mold cavities around a second circular path.

⁹
~~42~~. (original) The apparatus according to claim ⁸~~41~~, wherein said transfer device comprises a flexible conveying means traversing around a third path, a first portion of said third path being coincident with said first circular path, and a second portion of said third path being coincident with said second circular path.

¹⁰
~~43~~. (original) The apparatus of claim ¹~~34~~ further comprising a motor providing power to the compression module, transfer device, and thermal cycle molding module.

¹¹
~~44~~. (original) An apparatus for making dosage forms containing a medicant, comprising:

a) a first rotor comprising a plurality of die cavities disposed around the circumference thereof so as to be carried around a first circular path by said rotor, each of said die cavities having an opening for receiving powder and at least one punch mounted for displacement into said die cavity, whereby displacement of said punch into said die cavity compresses powder contained in said die cavity into a compressed dosage form;

b) a second rotor comprising a plurality of mold cavities disposed around the circumference thereof so as to be carried around a second circular path by said second rotor, each of said mold cavities capable of enclosing at least a portion of a compressed dosage form and capable of receiving flowable material so as to coat said portion of said compressed dosage form enclosed by said mold cavity; and

c) a transfer device for transferring compressed dosage forms from said first rotor to said second rotor, said transfer device comprising a plurality of transfer units guided around a third path, a first portion of said third path being coincident with said first circular path and a second portion of said third path being coincident with said second circular path.

¹²
~~45~~ (original) The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~44~~ further comprising a heat source, a heat sink, and a temperature control system, said temperature control system comprising a tubing system disposed proximal to said mold cavities and connected to said heat source and said heat sink for circulating heat transfer fluid through said heat source, through said heat sink, and proximal to said mold cavities, such that said mold cavities may be heated and cooled by said heat transfer fluid.